



UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL: SOCIO-ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF TOURISM IN TRIPURA'S GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

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ABSTRACT

This research dives into how tourism is changing Tripura, a state in India. We're looking at how tourism affects things like jobs, businesses, and culture. We see that tourism can help Tripura grow economically and provide more jobs. But we also find that it can harm the environment and make local culture less authentic.

To figure this out, we looked at data, talked to people, and studied examples from Tripura. Our findings show that if tourism is managed well, it can be a great thing for Tripura's economy. But we need to be careful and make sure we don't harm the environment or lose the uniqueness of the local culture.

In the end, we give ideas to the government, local people, and businesses about how to make tourism work best for Tripura. We suggest involving the community, preserving the local culture, and building things that don't harm nature.

KEYWORDS: Tourism, Socio-Economic Significance, Tripura, Growth, Transformation, Employment

INTRODUCTION

Tourism has emerged as a pivotal player in economic activities, with its most crucial role being the generation of employment opportunities. It is vital to recognize that tourism should primarily be seen as an economic endeavor, rather than just a welfare initiative. It is now acknowledged as a catalyst for a nation's socio-economic advancement.

The global economic importance of tourism is underlined by its capacity to earn foreign currency. Tourism maintains strong connections with various sectors of the economy, leading to a multiplier effect on production, income, and employment. It has shifted from being a luxury reserved for the wealthy elite to a way of life accessible to more people due to improved living standards. As people's quality of life improves, tourism's significance grows.

Blessed with a diverse array of attractions, Tripura holds considerable potential for tourism growth. Despite being one of the smallest states in India, spanning 10,491.69 square kilometres, Tripura's natural beauty, lush green valleys, vibrant hill ranges with their unique flora and fauna, and its rich cultural heritage and traditional craftsmanship provide a solid foundation for tourism development.

The aim of this paper is to explore how tourism can drive socio-economic growth and transformation in Tripura. We want to understand how tourism creates jobs, improves the economy, and impacts the local communities. By doing this, we hope to provide insights on how Tripura can make the most of its tourism potential for a better future.

LITERATURE REVIEWS

Bond and Ladman (1972) emphasized that for a developing nation possessing the elements of an appealing tourism package - culture, climate, history, and geography - the tourism industry holds the potential to play a leading role in fostering development. The global demand for tourism has risen and is projected to continue its expansion.

Ghali (1976), through an empirical study of Tourism and Economic Growth, discovered that the growth of tourism correlates with increased personal income compared to scenarios without such growth. Diamond (1977) explored the significance of tourism as a solution for consistent balance-of-payments deficits, attracting developing country governments and international aid agencies. His research centered on the economic rationale of tourism, which had been relatively unchallenged. While acknowledging successful cases like Kenya, Tunisia, Morocco, and Thailand, Diamond recognized the economic achievements some nations enjoyed through tourism.

Goodall (1987) highlighted holiday-taking as a societal norm and a lucrative sector. Enhanced real incomes, longer paid holidays, improved mobility, and higher education levels drive holiday demand, making tourism a thriving industry. Global international tourism is predicted to maintain strong growth, generating employment and wealth while being a foreign exchange source. Governments, both in developed and developing nations, favor tourism for national and regional development due to its potential to attract private investment. However, the industry's demand is highly sensitive to price changes and vulnerable to disruptions.

Mansfeld (1992) examined the potential of rejuvenating declining industrial cities through tourism growth. The key inquiry was whether outmoded or diminishing industrial areas within or around a city could be transformed into prosperous tourist zones. While traditional notions saw tourism and heavy industry as conflicting land uses, the “industrial landscape” concept was introduced to reveal that, under certain circumstances and due to evolving industrial dynamics, positive interactions between the two could significantly contribute to city revitalization. The study employed two industrial zones in Haifa, Israel, as a case study to illustrate and assess how this concept could lead to urban revival through tourism development.

In his investigation of Tourism Development Patterns in Mountainous Environments, Price (1992) highlighted the growing perception of tourism as the sole solution for the survival of mountain communities worldwide, given rapid socio-economic and cultural changes. However, these changes also intersect with the potential for climate change. Thus, mountain communities opting for tourism as their reliance might face two additional challenges: alterations in demand due to climate shifts and potential increases in fuel costs driven by policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which substantially affect mountain tourism accessibility.

Balasubramanian and Sampathkumar (1995), in their exploration of tourism development in Tamil Nadu, suggested the necessity for increased private investment in tourism. They emphasized the importance of professionalism for successful business operations. The scarcity of skilled individuals in the tourism sector dissuades private parties from engagement. Universities and educational institutions should introduce Tourism Administration courses with tailored curricula to address this shortfall. Additionally, they recommended concerted efforts to enhance tourist potential, encompassing the restoration of existing attractions, uncovering hidden cultural and historical treasures, and strategically creating new points of interest to expand the tourist landscape. Effective and accurate publicity was noted as crucial, accompanied by aligned supportive services and facilities.

Fayos-Solà (2002) posited that national tourism policies will remain influential in the tourism development of many countries for the next decade, even though decentralization to regional and local governments might alter their role in specific areas. The multifaceted impacts of tourism on economic, social, and environmental aspects, with implications for governance and broader economic strategies, underscore the need for explicit national tourism policy frameworks. While regional and local administrations, situated closer to tourism destinations and businesses, can implement such policies, it doesn't inherently weaken national tourism administrations. The reassignment of tasks is the core consideration.

Although it might be premature to consider tourism fully globalized, the expansion and significance of international tourism justify addressing tourism at international organizational levels, including the existence of a dedicated intergovernmental entity like the WTO for international tourism policy. This

international level of tourism policy serves two primary purposes: recognizing the role of international and global public goods, market imperfections, and merit/demerit goods in tourism, and offering member states the chance to enhance their sovereignty optimally within the context of globalization. In this context, international organization-led tourism policy signifies a step towards global governance.

Sreekumar and Parayil (2002) delved into the nuances of tourism as a development option, focusing on the support Third World states provide to the tourism industry in various ways. Unlike the generally lackluster performance of the tourism sector in South Asia and India, Kerala stood out by reporting remarkable increases in tourism revenue in official reports. Despite being heralded as a ‘development model,’ Kerala's accomplishments seem to be unraveling due to an array of internal and external challenges. The government and bureaucracy promote tourism as a ‘growth engine,’ highlighting its potential for foreign exchange earnings and job creation to rejuvenate the local economy. Opposition from environmental and labor advocates against large-scale tourism initiatives is often met with undemocratic responses. The article highlights a less optimistic role for tourism in the local economy, revealing how dynamics tend to inflate tourism's economic contribution, especially amid governmental shortcomings, political turmoil, and the consolidation of interest groups.

Aradhyula and Tronstad (2003) discussed the impact of business visits, quantified using the tourism equation, on a firm's likelihood to engage in trade. They found that the influence of tourist visits on trade is more pronounced when coupled with other firm attributes like age, perceived need for geographical diversity, foreign language proficiency, and firm size, rather than considering them in isolation. Their findings suggest that government agencies can play a role in addressing the imperfect information related to trade opportunities by facilitating exploratory business ventures and tourist visits.

These literature reviews help us to study the importance of the tourism and its contribution for the economy of a place.

METHODOLOGY

To analyse the role of the tourism role in the development of Tripura economy we have reviewed the existing literatures and got to know the importance of the tourism in the development of economy and the providing the job to the peoples. At next we have collected the secondary data from the source https://ecostat.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/FINAL%20ECONOMIC%20REVIEW_0.pdf to collect the information about the Tripura tourism. We have analysed this data to get more information about the Tripura. The Statistical and Economical models have been used to analyse the economy of Tripura from the tourism.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The table-1 presents a summary of the data for different districts in Tripura in the year 2021-22. It provides information on various aspects such as the number of subdivisions, revenue circles, revenue moujas (a unit of land measurement), and tehsils (administrative subdivisions) for each district.

Districts	Sub Divisions	Revenue Circles	Revenue Mouja	Tehsil
West Tripura	3	6	112	39
Sepahijala District	3	6	118	37
South Tripura	3	6	138	35
Gomati District	3	7	130	29
North Tripura	3	7	88	27
Unakoti District	2	3	78	12
Dhalai District	4	7	154	24
Khowai District	2	4	79	19
Tripura	23	46	897	222

Table 1: District-wise Status in 2021-22

Districts: The table lists the districts in the first column. There are a total of 9 districts in the dataset.

SubDivisions: This column shows the number of subdivisions within each district. The minimum number of subdivisions is 2, the first quartile (25th percentile) is 3, the median (50th percentile) is 3, the mean (average) is approximately 5.11, the third quartile (75th percentile) is 3, and the maximum number of subdivisions is 23.

RevenueCircles: This column indicates the number of revenue circles within each district. The minimum number of revenue circles is 3, the first quartile is 6, the median is 6, the mean is approximately 10.22, the third quartile is 7, and the maximum number of revenue circles is 46.

RevenueMouja: This column represents the number of revenue moujas within each district. The minimum number of revenue moujas is 78, the first quartile is 88, the median is 118, the mean is approximately 199.3, the third quartile is 138, and the maximum number of revenue moujas is 897.

Tehsil: The last column displays the number of tehsils within each district. The minimum number of tehsils is 12, the first quartile is 24, the median is 29, the mean is approximately 49.33, the third quartile is 37, and the maximum number of tehsils is 222.

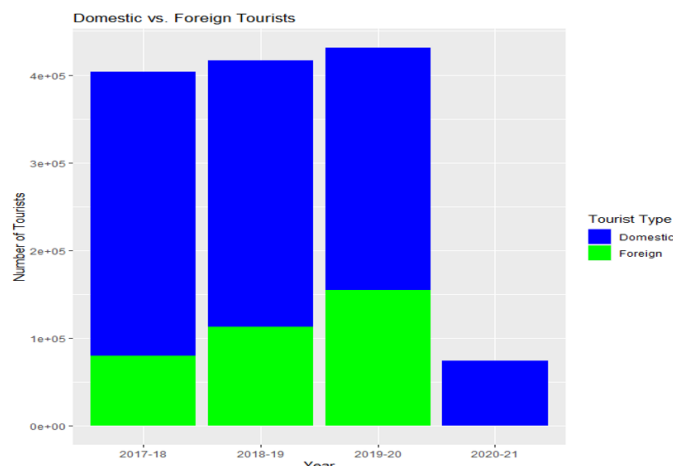
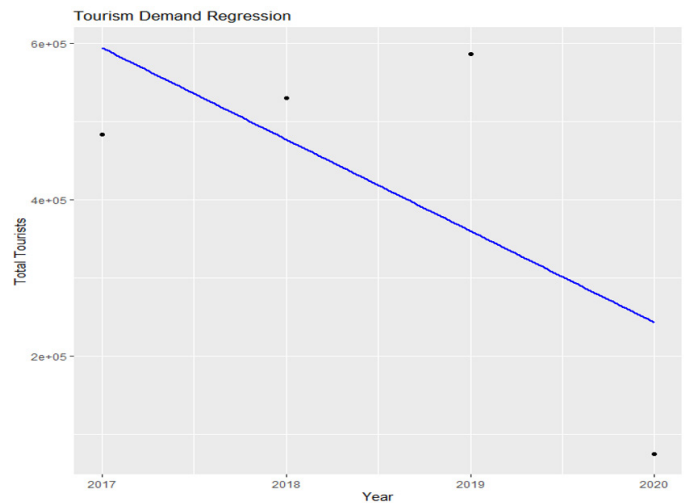


Figure 1: Vistors comparison

The figure-1 shows that the visitors count in the Tripura. Regression analysis of Tripura tourism demand



The linear regression analysis conducted in this study aimed to explore the relationship between the year and the total number of tourists visiting Tripura. This exploration is a key aspect of understanding the socio-economic significance of tourism in Tripura's growth and transformation. Let's break down the results in this context:

Residuals:

The residuals represent the differences between the predicted and actual values of the total number of tourists. In the context of Tripura's growth, these differences might indicate trends that were not captured by the linear relationship with the year. Positive residuals suggest that the actual number of tourists exceeded the predicted values, indicating potential growth opportunities in the tourism sector.

Coefficients:

The coefficients provide insights into the relationship between the numeric representation of the year and the total number of tourists. The intercept coefficient, though not directly interpretable due to its context, could indicate a baseline number of tourists when the year is at its reference point. The coefficient for the year suggests that for each passing year, the model predicts a decrease in the total number of tourists. However, the non-significant p-value suggests that this relationship might not hold much practical importance.

Residual Standard Error:

The residual standard error indicates the average deviation of actual tourist numbers from the predicted values. In the context of Tripura's growth and transformation, a higher residual standard error might imply fluctuations in tourist numbers that are not accounted for by the linear relationship with the year. This variability could be due to various socio-economic factors influencing tourism.

Multiple R-squared and Adjusted R-squared:

These measures assess how well the model explains the variability in total tourist numbers. In the context of Tripura's growth, a low Adjusted R-squared suggests that the linear

model might not comprehensively capture the socio-economic complexities driving tourism. Only a limited portion of the changes in tourist numbers is explained by the year alone.

F-statistic and p-value:

The F-statistic evaluates the overall significance of the model. In the perspective of Tripura's growth and transformation, the non-significant p-value indicates that the model, based solely on the year, might not be a strong predictor of tourist numbers. This suggests that other socio-economic factors, such as infrastructure development, local attractions, marketing efforts, and policy initiatives, play crucial roles in shaping tourism growth.

CONCLUSION

This research paper has endeavoured to shed light on the intricate interplay between tourism and Tripura's socio-economic landscape, with a particular focus on its growth trajectory and transformative potential. The findings of this study underscore the significance of tourism as a catalyst for economic and social development, yet they also emphasize the need for a nuanced and comprehensive approach to harnessing its benefits.

Our analysis revealed that while there is a discernible relationship between the passage of time and the total number of tourists, the predictive power of this linear association is limited. The linear regression model, which considered the numeric representation of the year, demonstrated a lack of statistical significance in explaining fluctuations in tourist numbers. This underscores the complexity of tourism dynamics, which are influenced by multifaceted socio-economic factors that extend far beyond the temporal dimension.

Tripura's growth and transformation journey through tourism necessitates a holistic strategy that incorporates diverse considerations. Infrastructure development, preservation and promotion of local culture and attractions, community engagement, effective marketing campaigns, and favorable policy frameworks are all crucial components of this strategy. The success of such an approach hinges upon recognizing tourism not merely as a numeric figure but as a catalyst for sustainable growth that has the potential to uplift communities, create employment opportunities, and diversify the economy.

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